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[Signature]

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Nozer M. MEHTA et al.

Date: February 8, 2000

Serial No.: Not Yet Known

Filed: Herewith

For: DIRECT EXPRESSION OF PEPTIDES INTO CULTURE MEDIA

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the subject application, please make the following amendments a part of the record:

In the Specification

[Please amend the specification as follows:]

Page 1, delete lines 3-5 and insert the following:

This is a division of application Serial No. 09/060,765, filed
Now U.S. Patent Number 6,103,495
April 15, 1998, which claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application No.
60/043,700, filed April 16, 1997.

In the Claims

[Please amend claims 16 and 28 as follows:]

--16. (Amended) An expression vector comprising:

(a) a coding region with nucleic acids coding for a peptide product coupled in reading frame 3' of nucleic acids coding for a signal peptide;

(b) a control region linked operably with the coding region, said control region comprising a plurality of promoters and at least one ribosome binding site, wherein at least one of said promoters is tac; and

(c) [The vector of claim 1, further comprising] nucleic acids coding for at least